

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 SAJ-01 SP-02 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5827

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5961

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: DETERIORATION IN ROK/JAPAN RELATIONS

REF: TOKYO 11739

1. FONMIN PHONED CHARGE LATE EVENING SEPT 10. HE CONFIRMED THAT KIMURA HAD DETERMINED TO RECOMMEND TO PRIME MINISTER TANAKA THAT SPECIAL ENVOY BE SENT SEOUL BEARING LETTER FROM TANAKA TO PRESIDENT PARK, PROVIDED ROKG COULD ASSURE THAT LETTER WOULD NOT BE REJECTED.

2. FONMIN SAID HE HAD SPENT SEVERAL HOURS IN CHOSUN HOTEL WITH AMB USHIROKU, GOING OVER TEXT OF PROPOSED LETTER, WHICH APPEARS ACCURATELY REPORTED REFTEL. HE HAD REITERATED NEED FOR INCLUSION IN TBWT REFERENCE TO JAPAN'S ACCEPTANCE OF "DUE RESPONSIBILITY" IN ADDITION TO DEEP REGRET FOR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, TO JAPAN'S INTENTION TO TAKE PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED TO EXTENT OF LAW, AND TO SPECIFIC MENTION OF CHOSEN SOREN IN PARA DEALING WITH JAPAN'S DETERMINATION TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER TERRORISTIC ACTS. IN SHORT, HE HAD TOLD USHIROKU THAT LETTER AS DRAFTED WOULD NOT BE SATISFACTORY. IN RESPONSE CHARGE QUERY, HE SAID LETTER COULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL, THAT IT NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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CUSTOMARY PRACTICE TO PUBLICISE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HEADS

OF GOVERNMENT.

3. SINCE FONMIN HAD EARLIER ASKED CHARGE WHETHER HE THOUGH ROKG WAS ASKING FOR TOO MUCH, CHARGE REMINDED HIM THAT HE AND OTHER SENIOR ROKG FIGURES HAD INDICATED THAT IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT WAS THAT EMISSARY BRING LETTER ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT PARK, AND THAT IF THIS COULD BE ARRANGED, ROKG WAS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE ABOUT LANGUAGE. WE HAD SO ADVISED GOJ. GOJ HAD NOW INDICATED IT PREPARED TO SATISFY ROKG'S MOST PRESSING REQUIREMENT.

CHARGE VENTURED PERSONAL OPINION THAT JAPANESE AND KOREANS COULD PROBABLY FIND COMMON GROUNDS FOR SETTLEMENT OF INTITAL TWO POINTS. OBVIOUSLY JAPANESE WOULD HAVE GREATEST PROBLEM IN MAKING SPECIFIC MENTION OF CHOSEN SOREN. FONMIN HAD BEEN AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN AND WOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANT IN TERMS OF GOJ'S DOMESTIC POSITION.

4. CHARGE ADDED PERSONAL VIEW THAT, SINCE FONMIN HAD REQUESTED HIS OPINION, ROKG WAS ASKING FOR TOO MUCH ON THIS POINT. SUBJECT OF CHOSEN SOREN AND JAPANESE INTENTIONS COULD BE COVERED IN DISCUSSION WITH ENVOY. ANY SPECIFIC MENTION OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN DOCUMENT COULD CONCEIVABLY BECOME AVAILABLE TO PRESS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY EMBARRASSING TO GOJ.

5. COMMENT: JAPANESE HAVE APPARENTLY GONE FAR TOWARD MEETING WHAT ROKG OFFICIALS HAD EARLIER SAID WAS ROKG'S IMMEDIATE NEED. WE KNOW KIM WAS AT BLUE HOUSE, AND HIS INSISTENCE ON AMENDING PROPOSED LETTER UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS PRESIDENT'S DISSATISFACTION WITH JAPANESE LANGUAGE. WHILE WE SHOULD NOT GET OURSELVES INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATING DETAILS, WE BELIEVE JAPANESE HAVE GONE SUFFICIENTLY FAR TO WARRANT POSITIVE ROKG RESPONSE. THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT DEPT INFORM AMB HAHM THAT USG FINDS ROKG INSISTENCE ON HAVING ALL ITS DEMANDS REFLECTED IN LETTER DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND AND THAT WE WOULD HOPE THAT ROKG WOULD DEMONSTRATE WILLINGNESS QUIETLY TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATION AND TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY TO MATCH STEP JAPANESE HAVE TAKEN IN OFFERING TO SEND ENVOY.

6. REQUEST ALSO THAT CHARGE BE INSTRUCTED TO FOLLOW UP, EMPHASIZING THAT USG WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND ANY PRECIPITOUS ROKG ACTION  
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JEOPARDIZING ITS RELATIONS WITH JAPAN GIVEN JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO MEET ROKG'S ESSENTIAL NEEDS.  
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## Message Attributes

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